# Perkins not convinced Romer's sincere

## Governor pledges he'll defend Amendment 2 all the way

By **Jeff Thomas**/Gazette Telegraph

DENVER — Colorado for Family Values chairman Will Perkins on Monday called on Gov. Roy Romer to promise he will defend Amendment 2 to the last.

Romer's dedication to Amendment 2's defense is suspect because of his personal antipathy toward the measure, Perkins said at a Capitol news conference.

Romer quickly obliged Perkins' request. "If the Colorado Supreme Court rules against the state in the current appeal, we will appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court," Romer said in a statement Monday.

Amendment 2 would ban local and state laws that grant gays protection from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. Voters approved the measure in 1992, but a Denver district judge in December declared it unconstitutional. Romer, as a defendent in the suit challenging the amendment, is appealing the district judge's decision to the state Supreme Court.

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>
> **Colorado for Family Values chairman Will Perkins**

The governor's guarantee for a full defense was of little comfort to Perkins. Romer's opposition to the intent of Amendment 2, he said, "could affect his dilligence and enthusiasm to the commitment. Somewhere down the line, that's what's really going to control what he does."

Perkins also speculated darkly on the almost unnoticed removal of Attorney General Gale Norton, a Republican, as a defendent in the lawsuit challenging Amendment 2.

He wouldn't speculate on why Norton was dropped. But, he said, "it's easy to imagine"' Romer, left as the sole defendant, deciding to drop the state's defense of the measure.

David Miller, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union and one of 10 lawyers waging the lawsuit against Amendment 2, said Norton was dropped as a housekeeping move. It has no legal effect, he said.

"If Colorado for Family Values wants it to mean something for their own political purposes, then God bless them," Miller said.

COUNTY

# Dangerous-building rule re

## Commission to tackle zoning next

By **Dru Wilson**
Gazette Telegraph

A group of vocal eastern El Paso County residents won the first round of their battle over property rights Monday when county commissioners voted 3-1 to kill a proposed dangerous-building ordinance.

Still to come is a March 10

senting vote. Monday's action leaves those residents with no recourse for ridding their community of several derelict buildings, she said. One in the 100 block of Norman Drive has been empty for nearly 10 years and another on Bradley Road was left a burned-out hulk more than a year ago.